

Message Text

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15
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 IGA-01 ACDA-05

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02

PRS-01 MC-02 /066 W
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P 040830Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6115

INFO DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

USDLG JAKARTA PRIORITY

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK PRIORITY

JUSMAG SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANILA 10667

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JOINT EMBASSY/MAG MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: PROPPSED ALLOCATION OF MILITARY ITEMS RECOVERED FROM
CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM

REF: STATE 181057

1. I AM GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH AIRCRAFT ALLOCATION TO
THE PHILIPPINES PROPOSED IN REFTL, ALTHOUGH I WOULD HOPE
THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING
SOME C-123 SPARES TO BOLSTER HEAVILY OVERTAXED PHILIPPINE

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TRANSPORT CAPABILITIES.

2. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF THE NAVAL VESSELS AT SUBIC, AS IT NOW STANDS, WOULD CAUSE US SERIOUS PROBLEMS HERE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE NEW MANAGEMENT IN SAIGON IS CLEARLY ON THE RECORD WITH MANILA FOR THE RETURN OF ALL THE VIETNAMESE VESSELS. THE GOP HAS BEEN WARILY SIDE-STEPPING THE SAIGON CLAIM LESS BECAUSE OF OUR FLAGSTAFF LEGERDEMAIN THAN BECAUSE OF A CALCULATED BELIEF THAT THE US WOULD EVENTUALLY PASS ALL OF THESE VESSELS TO THE PHIL NAVY. WITH THE GOP AT THIS VERY MOMENT GINGERLY PROBING FOR MEANINGFUL POLITICAL CONTACT WITH SAIGON, THE VIETNAMESE VESSELS LOOM LARGE IN THE BACKGROUND. THEREFORE, BEFORE ANY RPT ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT (I.E., INDONESIA) IS INFORMED THAT IT WILL RECEIVE SOME OF THOSE SHIPS, WE WILL WISH TO WORK OUT VERY CAREFULLY WITH WASHINGTON THE MANNER IN WHICH WE DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH THE GOP.

3. THE GOP HAS BEEN WILLING TO RUN THE RISK OF POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SQUEEZE FOR THESE VESSELS AND IF IT NOW LEARNS THAT IT WILL NOT GET MANY OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE CRAFT IN THE FLEET, THERE WILL BE A SHARP EMOTIONAL REACTION WHICH WILL CAUSE US REAL PROBLEMS ON THE BROADER ISSUES OF BASES, ETC. WHILE IT MAY EVENTUALLY BE POSSIBLE TO RECONCILE GOP TO SEEING INDONESIA OBTAIN TWICE AS MANY OF THE WHECS AS THE GOP IS SLATED TO RECEIVE, THIS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE IF, AT THE SAME TIME, THE DER AND THE ARL ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMM THEREFORE, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE KEY TO HANDLING THIS SHIP REDISTRIBUTION AND TO AVOIDING POTENTIAL RP-INDONESIAN FRICTION LIES IN THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN RE THE TWO BEST SHIPS IN THE SUBIC COLLECTION--THE DER AND THE ARL.

4. IT IS OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT THESE TWO VESSELS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER TO THE GOP, SO THAT WE CAN EASE THE SHOCK OF LOSING THE FOUR WHECS AND THE PGM-83 TO INDONESIA. FAILING THAT, WE RECOMMEND THAT WHECS 382 AND 386 BE SHIFTED FROM THE INDONESIAN LIST TO THE GOP LIST TO COMPLEMENT WHECS 383 AND 384, WHICH ARE ALREADY EARMARKED FOR PHILIPPINES. OTHER PATROL CRAFT FROM OTHER SERVICES WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE FOUND FOR INDONESIA TO FULFILL OUR
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UNDERSTANDING WITH THEM.

5. CONCURRENTLY, AS AN ACTION EXTRANEIOUS TO THIS DISTRIBUTION OF THE SHIPS RECOVERED FROM CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM BUT CLOSELY RELATED TO IT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOFTEN THE BLOW OF THE GOP RECEIVING LESS THAN HOPED FOR IN BOTH NUMBERS AND QUALITY OF THESE VESSELS IF WE COULD HAVE ASSURANCE THAT GOP WOULD RECEIVE THE SHIPS AND CRAFT CURRENTLY LOCATED IN

JAPAN WHICH ARE DECLARED EXCESS TO THE NEEDS OF THE JMSDF, AND FOR WHICH THE GOP HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO SEND A TEAM TO JAPAN SOME TIME AGO TO INSPECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING THEIR REDISTRIBUTION TO THE PHILIPPINE NAVY. IF THESE SHIPS AND CRAFT, WHICH INCLUDE TWO DE AND TWO LST TYPES ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF SMALL CRAFT, CAN BE REDISTRIBUTED TO THE GOP, IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO GIVE THE INDONESIANS AT LEAST THREE OF THE FOUR WHECS AND THE PGM PROPOSED IN REFTTEL AND AT THE SAME TIME MAKE THE GOP BOTH HAPPY AND CO-OPERATIVE. HOWEVER, THIS GAMBIT WOULD WORK, IN OUR JUDGMENT, ONLY IF THE DER, THE ARL, AND THE TWO ES-AGPS NOT MENTIONED IN REFTTEL ARE ACTUALLY GOING TO BE RETURNED TO US NAVY INVENTORY (ASSUMING THEY ARE MASF-FUNDED) AND NOT RPT NOT SOLD OR TURNED OVER TO SOME OTHER MAP RECIPIENT. WE WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THEIR US DESTINATION AT THE TIME THEY ARE WITHDRAWN FROM THE SUBIC FLOTILLA.

6. EVEN IF ALL THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT LOSS OF SKIN, CAREFUL ATTENTION WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE MANNER IN WHICH WE ARRANGE RP-INDONESIAN COLLABORATION ON DELIVERY OF ANY WHECS TO INDONESIA, AS WELL AS THE RELATIVE MATERAIL CONDITIONS OF THE WHECS GOING TO EACH COUNTRY. SINCE THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REPAIRED OR OUTFITTED IN THE US SHIP REPAIR FACILITY AT SUBIC, THEY WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE FITTED FOR VOYAGE IN A PHILIPPINE NAVAL OR PRIVATE SHIPYARD, WHICH WILL, OF COURSE, ALLOW THE GOP TO COMPARE THE RELATIVE MERITS OF THE WHECS AND BE ANOTHER SORE POINT IF THE GOP OBVIOUSLY GETS THE WORST OF THE LOT. TO ARRANGE THIS WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN A LITTLE US-RP-INDONESIAN TRIANGULAR FINESSE, AND WILL NEED CAREFUL COORDINATION AMONG WASHINGTON, MANILA AND JAKARTA BEFORE WE MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR INTENTIONS EITHER TO THE FILIPINOS OR THE INDONESIANS.

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7. AS AN ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL NOTE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT LST-975 IS ACTUALLY LOCATED IN GUAM VICE SUBIC BAY.
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